

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 13-21, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 13, 15, and 23 have been amended as suggested in the Official Action. Accordingly, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejections.

Claims 13-21, 23, and 24 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the indefiniteness rejections set forth in the Official Action. As indicated above, the Applicants submit that the amendments to Claims 13, 15, and 23 overcome the indefiniteness rejection, and therefore the Applicants submit that Claims 13-21, 23, and 24 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Korenberg (U.S. Patent No. 4,548,138). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the anticipatory rejection.

The Applicants submit that the Korenberg reference does not disclose a fluidized bed incinerator with a first air supply port provided in a bottom of the combustion furnace, a second air supply port provided in a range of 1500 to 2100 mm from the bottom, and a fuel input port provided in a range of 2100 to 2700 mm from the bottom, as recited in Claim 25 of the present application.

The Official Action cites the Korenberg reference for the teaching of a first air supply port at openings (12) in the support surface (13), a second air supply port at the lowest opening (19) in combustion chamber (10), with air supplied to the openings from blower (14). Additionally, the Korenberg reference describes means for feeding combustible matter to the lower region (11) of the chamber (10) through inlet (17).

As depicted in the figures of the Korenberg reference, the inlet (17) for inletting combustible matter is located well below the openings (19) in the upper region (18) of the

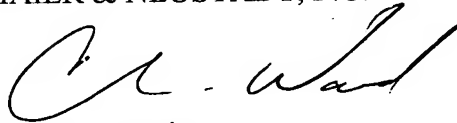
chamber (10). Accordingly, the Korenberg reference does not anticipate the invention recited in amended Claim 25. More specifically, the Korenberg reference does not disclose a fluidized bed incinerator with a first air supply port provided in a bottom of the combustion furnace, a second air supply port provided in a range of 1500 to 2100 mm from the bottom, and a fuel input port provided in a range of 2100 to 2700 mm from the bottom.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully requests the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

13. (Once Amended) The fluidized bed incinerator according to claim 12, wherein said second combustion section has a second air supply port provided in a range of 1500 to 2100 mm from the bottom;

said third combustion section has a third air supply port provided in a range of 3100 to 3700 mm from said bottom; and

said fourth combustion section has a fourth air supply port provided in a range of 4100 to 4700 mm from said bottom.

15. (Once Amended) A combustion method in a fluidized bed incinerator comprising the steps of:

(a) supplying fuel to a [fist] first combustion section as a fluidized [bet] bed;

(b) combusting the fuel in a first temperature range by first air supplied to said first combustion section, while suppressing generation of NO_x and dioxine;

(c) combusting a non-combusted component of the fuel in a second temperature range by second air supplied to a second combustion section, while suppressing the generation of NO_x and dioxine and dissolving NO_x and dioxine generated in said first combustion section;

(d) combusting a non-combusted component of the fuel in a third temperature range by third air supplied to a third combustion section, while suppressing the generation of NO_x

and dioxine and dissolving NO_x and dioxine generated in said second combustion section;
and

(e) carrying out complete combustion of a non-combusted component of the fuel in a fourth temperature range by fourth air supplied to a fourth combustion section, while suppressing the generation of NO_x and dioxine and dissolving NO_x and dioxine generated in said third combustion section.

23. (Once Amended) A fluidized bed incinerator having a combustion furnace comprising:

first to fourth combustion sections, and

wherein a fuel is supplied to said first combustion section as a fluidized bed section and an combustion exhaust gas is exhausted after said fourth combustion section,

first to fourth air are supplied from first to fourth air supply ports to said first to fourth combustion section, respectively, and

said first air supply port is provided in a bottom of said combustion furnace,

said second air supply port is provided in a range of 1500 to 2100 mm from the bottom;

said third air supply port is provided in a range of 3100 to 3700 mm from said bottom;

and

said fourth air supply port is provided in a range of 4100 to 4700 mm from said bottom.

25. (Once Amended) A fluidized bed incinerator having a combustion furnace comprising:

a first combustion section as a fluidized bed section to which fuel is supplied and first air is supplied from a first air supply port provided in a bottom of said combustion furnace;

a second combustion section to which second air is supplied from a second air supply port provided in a range of 1500 to 2100 mm from the bottom;

a third combustion section to which third air is supplied from a third air supply port;

a fourth combustion section to which fourth air is supplied from a fourth air supply port, and an combustion exhaust gas is exhausted after said fourth combustion section; and

a fuel input port provided in a range of 2100 to 2700 mm from the bottom.